



The Tennessee Department of Labor
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NEWS RELEASE

Phil Bredesen
Governor

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James Neeley
Commissioner

TRW Automotive in Cookeville Receives Star Award

Nashville – Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Deputy Commissioner Bob Henningsen on behalf of Governor Phil Bredesen, today awarded the TRW Automotive Cookeville, Tennessee, plant the **VOLUNTEER STAR** Award. The **VOLUNTEER Safety Through Accountability and Recognition (STAR)** Award is the state's highest honor for workplace safety and health and is a nationally recognized program.

Deputy Commissioner Bob Henningsen congratulated many of the manufacturing facility's 363 employees during the ceremony held at the Cookeville plant. "Tennessee's **VOLUNTEER STAR** program participants are a select group of employers who have designed and implemented outstanding health and safety programs. We welcome TRW into this exclusive group," said Henningsen.

The **VOLUNTEER STAR** program is patterned after the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program and recognizes the best of the best in the area of safety and health programming and performance. Employers, employees, and TOSHA work together as partners to develop the program. This results in improved employee motivation, reduced workers' compensation costs, and community recognition. STAR sites generally experience 60-80 percent fewer lost workday injuries than would be expected of an "average" site of the same size in their industries.

The main incentive for participation in the STAR program is the improvement of the company's safety and health program, which helps reduce accidents and injuries. The program also allows employers to be removed from programmed compliance inspection lists for a period of three years. TOSHA works with companies through the internal and external review that is part of the application process.

TRW Automotive in Cookeville employs 363 employees and operates two eight-hour shifts a day with a third shift consisting of minimal maintenance activities. TRW Automotive is one of the largest producers of automotive restraint systems in North America. The Cookeville employees assemble and test 7.2 million units annually. Their products are purchased by major domestic and transplant automakers as well as vehicle manufacturers around the world. Production at the Cookeville facility began in 1991. In 1995, TRW-OSS in Cookeville was recognized by *Industry Week* as a winner of the "America's Best Plant Award."

For more information on the **VOLUNTEER STAR** Award program, contact TOSHA's Consultative Services office at 1-800-325-9901.

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